

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PANAMA 06567 082228Z

ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 L-03 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02

PM-05 /064 W

-----040473 082233Z /64

O 082219Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8814

S E C R E T PANAMA 06567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, NU, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFM ON NICARAGUA

REF: STATE 227730

1. CHARGE CONSULTED TODAY WITH FONMIN GONZALEZ-REVILLA ON QUESTION OF VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFM ON NICARAGUA. HE SAID THAT PANAMA IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES ARRIVING AT A POSITION ON THE ISSUE AND THAT HE WAS ATTENDING WHAT HE EXPECTED WOULD BE A DECISION-MAKING MEETING LATER TODAY. WHILE MUCH POPULAR SUPPORT FOR ACTION HAS BEEN GENERATED IN PANAMA BY THE RECENT SANDINISTA INCIDENT HE DID NOT VISUALIZE PANAMA "OUT IN FRONT" OR MAKING SPEECHES IN SUPPORT OF THE VENZUELAN INITIATIVE.

2. WHEN TOLD OF U.S. POSITION I.E. SUPPORT OF VENEZUELAN REQUEST, IN PRINCIPLE, UNDER ART. 59 (IN RESPONSE TO HIS DIRECT QUESTION) HE SAID THAT WOULD HELP PANAMA TO FRAME ITS POSITION.

3. HE SAID THAT ON THURSDAY HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED MFM WITH HIS COSTA RICAN COUNTERPART WHO EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR A REGIONAL COMMISSION WHICH HE INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 PANAMA 06567 082228Z

4. FONMIN WAS VAGUE ON SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN BY MFM IF CONVOKED. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD SUPPORT ANY MEASURES, EACH VOTING INSTEAD ITS OWN SELF INTERESTS FEARING IT MIGHT BE NEXT. HE FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT A COMMISSION OR INVESTIGATIVE BODY MIGHT BE APPOIN1ED TO EVALUATE THE

DANGER OF THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM AND/OR THE POSSIBLE
VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. GONZALEZ-REVILLA INDICATED THAT NICARAGUA WAS
CAMPAIGNING VIGOROUSLY THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE OVER THIS
WEEKEND AGAINST THE VENEZUELAN PROPOSALS.

6. IN CONCLUSION, HE SAID HE WOULD ADVISE THE CHARGE WHEN
THE PANAMA POSITION ON THE VENEZUELAN REQUEST HAD BEEN
DECIDED, WHICH SHOULD BE NO LATER THAN MORNING SEPT. 11.
IN RETURN HE ASKED TO BE UP-DATED ON U.S. POSITION AS
APPROPRIATE. DIKEOS

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Message Attributes

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